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**Seattle Department of Neighborhoods**



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University of Washington, Office of Regional Affairs

# City of Seattle - University of Washington Community Advisory Committee

**Meeting Notes**

**Meeting # 126**

**June 11, 2013**

UW Tower

4333 Brooklyn Avenue

Seattle, WA 98105

22<sup>nd</sup> Floor

**Members and Alternates Present**

Matt Fox	Bryan Partington
Alex Bolton	Betty Swift
Aaron Hoard	Brett Frosaker
Kerry Kahl	Jean Amick
Jan Arntz	

**Staff and Others Present**

Steve Sheppard	John Shaheen
Julie Stein	

(See sign-in sheet)

**I. Welcome and Introductions** The meeting was opened by Matthew Fox. Brief introductions followed.

**II. Approval of Agenda/Housekeeping**

The meeting agenda and minutes for meeting #125 were approved without substantive changes.

**III. Burke-Gilman Trail Update – John Shaheen**

John Shaheen, the new assistant director of Transportation services provided an update on the Burke-Gilman trail on behalf of Josh Kavanaugh, who was unable to attend due to a schedule conflict. Mr. Shaheen stated that the project was designed to improve the 1.7 miles of the Trail owned and controlled by the University. The intention is to resolve the conflicts that exist among pedestrians and cyclist. There will be an increased number of pedestrians and cyclist that will be using the trail once the light rail is completed. The initial vision is to design and complete the 1.7 miles of trail with the idea of doing the construction in different phases as the finances are available.

The City of Seattle-University of Washington Community Advisory Committee advises both on the community impact of planning and development activities at the University of Washington and surrounding area. For more information on CUCAC activities call either: Steve Sheppard – City of Seattle (206) 684-0302 or Theresa Doherty – University of Washington (206) 221-2603.

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Mr. Shaheen informed the committee that the project has secured a \$3 million in grants, and will also apply for what is called a “Tiger Grant” that is part of the Federal Transportation funding for the economic stimulus program. \$12 million will be requested from this source. Currently, we have 5,800 letters of support from our state legislators, and local agencies that includes SDOT, WSDOT, and many other project partners. If the University secures this grant, the entire 1.7 miles of trail can be redeveloped before the light rail opens in the fall of 2016.

The floor was opened for questions from the Committee. Questions and answers were as follows:

1. What drives the cost of the project?

Mr. Shaheen stated that the project will widen the trail from an average of 15 ft. to 26 ft. with a physical separation between pedestrians and bicycles. There will be enhanced lighting, some street furniture, benches, garbage cans, and security and emergency phones along the trail. Along with the separation, there will be mixing zones, where the pedestrian and other trails link up with the Burke-Gilman. There will be a widening and expanding and special treatment of the surfaces at these mixing zones (i.e. side trails). This is a significant improvement to the trail.

2. Can you explain the grades separation on Pend Oreille Road?

Pend Oreille will be raised and the trail, lowered so that there will be no at-grade crossing.

3. Are you going to put lighting along the trail?

Yes.

4. Why concrete for pedestrians?

Runners retain some gravel on the site. There will be softer gravel on both sides of the trail. The reason we chose concrete is because of the queue. People are used to walking on sidewalks. The sidewalk signals for the pedestrians that this trail is for them and asphalt for cyclist.

5. Will any trees be cut?

Few significant trees would be cut. We are collaborating with our design team as well as with our landscaping and architectural experts on this issue.

6. Do you have plans for the western part of campus, intersection with the 15<sup>th</sup> and the Ave?

There will be thresholds in the intersections. It will be similar to mixing zones that has early warnings for the pedestrians as they approach the trail.

7. How likely is it that you will receive the Tiger Grant?

There could be up to 900 Tiger applications for the \$487 million. Competition will be great. However we feel good about our application; we meet all of the criteria, and our competition within the State of Washington is not that strong.

8. What happens if you did not get this Tiger fund?

There are Matching Funds available and project partners that will have pieces of the project.

9. How do you resolve the conflict between commuters who want to go 20-25 miles/hr.; and pedestrians/recreational bikers along these key nodes? Does the University have jurisdiction over the trail through a policing standpoint? Will there be speed limits? And what kinds of enforcements are available within those key nodes?

Mr. Shaheen stated that the University hopes that the physical improvements will resolve these conflicts.

#### **IV. Burke Museum Project**

Julie Stein, the executive director for the Burke Museum provided a brief history of the Burke Museum. She noted that with current facilities only a small portion of its collection can be exhibited. A major goal of The University is to have more of its collections and objects visible and available to the public to see.

The project started in 2011 with a funding from the State for pre-designed. One of the constraints is the museum has to stay within the confine of the present site. A plan to was completed and presented to the University board, architectural committee and the community. Most were critical of that plan and advised that it was too cautious as it did not maximizing the potential of the whole site. The museum went back to the legislature and received funds for design. The Burke Museum asked the Regents to expand the footprint of the building and use a slightly larger site. This will allow the Museum to open from 45<sup>th</sup> for pedestrian. This also allows the University and the architects to revise northwest corner of the campus to be more inviting.

Ms. Stein stated that the hope is to open on 2018. We plan to go to the state for funding n to be match private donations in 2015. If this state funding is not available then the opening will be pushed back to 2019 or 2020. We hope to build a building and leave the present Burke Museum until all of the objects are moved and then it will be demolished and a plaza will be created in the middle of the area. The surrounding block around the demolished area can be further developed by the University as they see fit; such as an underground parking, an additional building or combination. We are hoping that the central plaza area will give a place for the community to congregate and develop into a wonderful green space.

Brief conversation followed. Members noted that the plan to open more to NE 45<sup>th</sup> is laudable but suggested that landscaping along NE 15 will need to be carefully designed as this area has been a hang-out for homeless etc. Others noted that many value the intense forested feel of that area and that a careful balance will be required. Ms. Stiles noted that they are aware of this. It is a concern because about thirty thousands of K-12 students pass through the museum.

#### **V. Community Conversations**

Ms. Jan Arntz informed the committee that there is an area in the campus where the baseball stadium and Walla Walla road are; the north of this area is an ash plume. For the last ten years, we were seeking some type of grant to improve this area. ICA (Intercollegiate Athletics) has some funds to develop this area. One of the proposals is to extend the pipe, and take a small area of this 3500 square feet, filling it by adding some pavement that

would result in five parking spaces for referees, one handicap space and when the baseball field is not in used, it can accommodate Husky band practices, and storage of shelves during regattas? This is an area that we wanted to freshen up for a long time. There will be an environmental review that is pending with regards to the development of this area.

#### **VI. Adjournment**

No further business being before the Committee; the meeting was adjourned.